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AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet next week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act of 2005, which may require that amendments be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration on the floor.

The Committee on the Judiciary ordered the bill reported on July 27, 2005, and is expected to file its report with the House on Friday, September 9, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported on July 27, 2005.

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JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS, A QUALIFIED NOMINEE FOR THE SUPREME COURT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since President Bush nominated John Roberts to serve on the Supreme Court in July, we have heard countless stories confirming Mr. ROBERTS' character, leadership abilities, and commitment to justice. Throughout his career, he has achieved an accomplished record of government service and has demonstrated his dedication to protecting our rights. The more Americans learn about him, the more they like him.

On Sunday, President Bush nominated Judge Roberts to follow in the footsteps of Chief Justice William Rehnquist as our Nation's highest ranking judge. When the Senate begins its confirmation process next week, I am confident that they will continue to discover that Judge Roberts is well suited for this position. From serving as a law clerk for Chief Justice Rehnquist to arguing 39 cases before the Supreme Court, he possesses a unique wealth of knowledge and experience.

After losing Chief Justice Rehnquist, our judicial system needs a similar leader who will fairly and effectively guide our courts. I strongly believe our Nation has found such a person in John Roberts.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

PROVIDING FAMILY ASSISTANCE IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we offer our sympathy and reflection today to the victims of 9/11, we stand here again looking at another horrific and unspeakable tragedy, Hurricane Katrina.

The numbers are clear that the greatest victims will be children. Some 400 children are homeless, and we know that between one-third and a quarter of them will have a traumatic experience after the end of their journey through Hurricane Katrina. We know that 35 percent of them that experienced this terrible tragedy will have a severe mental illness, and we also know that there are 800 missing children that are now lost or presumed dead through Hurricane Katrina.

I think it is important as we look toward more legislation bills and moving quickly to address the horribleness of this tragedy that we provide for a one-time grant assistance for the children who have been impacted by this hurricane and that legislation be drafted and passed by both bodies to secure their protection and that we provide a structure that will monitor these children through adulthood, through reaching the age of majority.

We have heard from psychiatrists that say that the most vulnerable victims of this tragedy who will suffer a horrific experience will be our children. We must rally around them. It is imperative that this Congress work together to provide them with the financial, social, psychiatric, and, of course, family assistance that is necessary.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER 1900

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina is a vivid reminder to Texans of another hurricane that occurred 105 years ago, the weekend of September 8, 1900, in Galveston, Texas. That hurricane, known to many as "the storm," was the deadliest natural disaster to take place in American history.

In 1900, Galveston was the showplace of the Gulf of Mexico, referred to by

many as the Jewel of Texas and the wealthiest city in the State of Texas. On that weekend in September, as 40,000 residents and vacationers were bidding farewell to summer, weather forecasters were watching closely an unnamed hurricane brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. Having very little of today's weather forecasting equipment, the trackers lost the location of the storm in the gulf after it passed the predicted landfall of Florida.

It began as a tropical storm on August 27, 1900, and no one could imagine what it would become. Twelve days later, in the darkness of the night on September 8, 105 years ago today, it started to rain in Galveston and the water silently and quickly began to rise. It crept and covered the low-lying island. The island was barely above sea level at 5 to 9 feet. There was no time for any evacuation.

The strong winds and rains ravaged the city. Houses were devastated and families were swept away. As the power and phones went out, people started wading through the murky mounting water. They sought shelter in downtown buildings and churches as the gale winds and incessant rain continued to increase.

Nuns in the local orphanage tied a roped around the waists of the children and unsuccessfully tried to lead them to higher ground. Of the 93 children and 10 Catholic nuns, only three boys survived.

No one was prepared or adequately warned for this Category 4 hurricane that hit the city of Galveston. The force of the 140-mile-an-hour winds caused a water surge that covered most of the 3 mile by 30 mile island in minutes.

The nameless hurricane destroyed 3,500 buildings, over half of the city. The loss of life was staggering. It reminds me of the scripture of old, that the rains came down, the waters rose, and the winds blew and beat against the houses. But when the rains stopped and the wind blew no more, over 8,000 people had died. Hundreds more were never accounted for. Nearly everyone on the island knew a friend or relative who had perished.

Isaac Cline, a Galveston forecaster, never believed that the hurricane could ravage this paradise island. After the calm came once more, Cline described the storm's aftermath as "the most horrible sight that was ever witnessed by a civilized people."

When the hurricane finally moved inland, and it did not end its winds until it got to Canada, the task of recovery was overwhelming. Prisoners of the State penitentiary were used in the cleanup to find the dead, buried at sea, only to resurface on the beaches. Bodies were still being found in February of the next year. Since it was not possible to bury the thousands that died, they were eventually cremated.

The story of Galveston's hurricane is a story of death and devastation and ultimate determination.